

# GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH SOUP – INSTRUCTIONS

To make this soup you will need:

- Pacific ocean (clear bowl)
- Wooden spoon to stir the ocean gyre (slow moving current)
- Different types of plastic (from the lunch box demonstration)
- Scissors (to cut the plastic into smaller pieces = microplastics)
- Water (can be salted if you like)
- Small clear bowls (beakers)

How to make your soup:

- Take one large Pacific Ocean bowl (make sure it is a clear bowl).
- Add sea water to the bowl (one student to add the saltwater to the bowl).
- Stir slowly to create an ocean gyre (one student to stir slowly).
- Add a few pieces of plastic (students to describe the plastic and guess how long the plastic takes to break down - use graphic provided for answers).
- Use scissors to chop up plastic into small pieces (simulating bio-degrading of the plastics breaking down by natural elements of sunlight, wave action and bacteria).
- Keep adding chopped plastic bits and stirring the soup (rotate until all students have had a turn at adding a plastic or rubbish item to the soup).
- Stir until thickened (investigate what it looks like, talk about the Patch being a thick soup).
- Ladle into a few small clear bowls.
- Serve to students.